

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02
DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /159 W
-----051785 271023Z /10

R 260600Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3001
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0150

TOKYO ALSO FOR RFO

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLDS, PORG, EFIS, XP, XU, PP

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY

REF: A) 77 STATE 290753, B) 77 TOKYO 18829, C) 77
PORT MORESBY 1849, D) PORT MORESBY 117

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1. SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER
DISCUSSED PROPOSED SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES
AGENCY WITH DFAT LEGAL ADVISOR AND LOS EXPERT GEOFFREY
DABB JANUARY 24. DISCUSSION SHOWED GPNG POSITION
BASICALLY UNCHANGED FROM THAT DESCRIBED IN REFTELS.
HOWEVER, DABB HAS DRAFTED A BRIEF TREATY RECOGNIZING
COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION OVER HIGHLY MIGRATORY

SPECIES, OBVIOUSLY PREPARING FOR POSSIBILITY OF TWO TREATY APPROACH MENTIONED REFTELS B AND C, AND HAS OTHERWISE DISPLAYED SOME AMBIVALENCE WITH RESPECT TO PNG PARTICIPATION IN AGENCY. BASED ON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH DABB AND AHC HERE, WE BELIEVE, A) AUSTRALIANS WAITING FOR U.S. TO TAKE THE LEAD WITH PNG, AND B) MARCH MEETING MOST UNLIKELY. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF COMPARED NOTES WITH AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION FIRST SECRETARY SULLIVAN WHO DISCUSSED PROPOSED SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY WITH DFAT'S GEOFFREY DABB ON JANUARY 24. ACCORDING TO DABB, GPNG POSITION BASICALLY UNCHANGED FROM THAT EMBOFF GOT FROM DABB IN DECEMBER (REFTEL C). IN ESSENCE, PNG STILL, A) BELIEVES DISTANT FISHERS' INTERESTS BASICALLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THOSE OF COASTAL STATES (READ U.S. AND PNG) AND DESIRES A "CLOSED CLUB" ORGANIZATION, B) OPPOSES HOLDING SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING IN MARCH, AND C) INSISTS ON COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION OVER HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES.

3. DESPITE PARA 2 ABOVE, DABB SHOWS SOME AMBIVALENCE. ON ONE HAND, HE STATES THAT PNG ADAMANT ABOUT COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION AND ON OTHER HAND HAS DRAFTED TREATY WHICH WOULD PLACATE PNG FEELINGS BUT IGNORE THEM IN APPLICATION OF AGENCY REGULATIONS. ON ONE HAND, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE IMPLIES PNG WILLING TO GO IT ALONE IF FORUM WILL NOT SUPPORT PNG POSITION AND ON OTHER HE TOLD AUSTRALIANS GPNG WILLING TO PAY ITS SHARE OF COSTS OF INTERIM AGENCY OFFICE TO BE SET UP IN SYDNEY. DABB TOLD EMBOFF IN DECEMBER HE HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED SUVA MEETING RESULTS WITH PRIME MINISTER SOMARE OR FONMIN OLEWALE. WE AND AUSTRALIANS BELIEVE DABB STILL HAS NOT DONE SO AND THAT HIS AMBIVALENCE MAY BE HIS WAY OF COVERING HIMSELF IN CASE HIS SUPERIORS OVERRULE HIM.

4. AUSTRALIAN POSITION SEEMS TO BE WAVERING. SULLIVAN INDICATED AUSTRALIANS ARE RELUCTANT TO GET OUT IN FRONT IN PART BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITIES AS FORMER COLONIAL POWER. SEEM TO BE WAITING FOR US TO TAKE LEAD. FURTHER, SULLIVAN SAYS JUNE WOULD BE BETTER DATE FOR FISHERIES MEETING THAN MARCH BECAUSE OF LOS MEETING. THIS, OF COURSE, COINCIDES WITH GPNG POSITION WHICH SEEKS TO DELAY FISHERIES MEETING UNTIL JUNE OR LATER.

5. WE BELIEVE KEY IS WHAT PRESSURES OTHER PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES ARE BRINGING ON GPNG. SUGGEST DEPT.

MAY WANT TO QUERY SUVA AND WELLINGTON TO GET BETTER
FEEL. IN MEANTIME, WE HOPE TO GET READING FROM NEW
ZEALAND APPROACH MENTIONED REFTTEL D.
OLMSTED

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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